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ABSTRACT

The "Renewal" program is available to teachers in school districts that participate as partners with the university in the education of future teachers. Any district which has, or has expressed the desire to have student teachers or pre-student teachers or interns from the University of Wisconsin--River Falls, is eligible to be included in the program. The program consists of courses, areas of studies, or projects that are designed by teachers in the district and university faculty. Resource people are provided by the College of Education. Participating teachers have the opportunity to enroll for graduate resident credit if they so desire. All projects, programs, or courses are carried out in the local districts, and the university professors and resource people go to the local districts rather than having the teachers come to the university. Course titles include Supervision of Student Teachers, School Law, Introduction to Learning Disabilities, Career Development, and Human Awareness. (Author/JA)

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DISTINGUISHED ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-RIVER FALLS RENEWAL PROGRAM

SUMMARY:

The University of Wisconsin-River Falls College of Education instituted a program of in-service to teachers in area schools that is called "Renewal". The Renewal Program is available to those teachers in school districts that participate as partners with the University in the education of future teachers. Any district which has, or expresses the desire to have, student teachers or pre-student teachers or interns from the University of Wisconsin-River Falls, are eligible to be included in the program. The program consists of courses, areas of studies or projects that are designed by the teachers in the district and the University. Resource people are hired by the University to assist in the completion of the projects or courses.

Participating teachers have the opportunity to enroll for graduate resident credit if they so desire. One of the major innovations of the program is the fact that all projects, programs or courses are carried out in the local districts and the University professors and resource people go to the local districts rather than having the teachers come to the University. In the 1973-74 academic year, more than 600 teachers will have been involved for graduate credit; more than 18 school districts with a population of over 2,000 teachers are included.

Topics that were covered during the year include the Supervision of Student Teachers, School Law, Introduction to Learning Disabilities, Career Development, Cultural Awareness, Behavior Modification, Human Awareness, Social Problems and Issues in Education and specially tailored learning experiences in Reading Program Development and Design, Team Teaching, Ungraded Primary and Marking, Grading and Reporting Pupil Progress. The College of Education provided the

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resource persons, many of whom were from school districts that had engaged in programs that were of great concern and interest to teachers in other districts, with funds that normally would have been used for transportation of University consultants or for a higher remuneration to teachers for having student teachers. The University discontinued payments to cooperating teachers and instead made a payment of $30 per student teacher to the district. It was the University's desire that districts use that money to enhance the Teacher Education Renewal Concept. By doing this, the College of Education believes that there has developed with the teachers in the local districts a true partnership which will enhance the total program of pre-service education for future teachers as well as the Renewal Program for teachers in the field. An evaluation of the program shows that most teachers, administrators and college staff are definitely in favor and believe that it does much to enhance the partnership that is present.

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UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-RIVER FALLS RENEWAL PROGRAM

Historically, teacher education institutions have carried out a program of pre-service education at the university culminating with an off-campus experience, normally called student teaching, in the local schools where the principle supervision was assigned to a cooperating teacher within the district. In most cases, these cooperating teachers were given some token form of remuneration by the preparing institution. Such remuneration usually ranging from $50 to $100 for an 8 to 12 or 16 week experience. Such cooperation between the universities and the local school districts in the preparation of teachers was and is called participation and partnership. This, however, has seemed to the College of Education at the University of Wisconsin-River Falls to be a one-sided partnership. The partnership was really one in which the preparing institution of higher education really played the dominant role and asked the school systems in their area to perform a service for that preparing institution by taking their student teachers for the student teaching experience.

With this as background, the College of Education at the University of Wisconsin-River Falls decided during the 1972-73 academic year to initiate a program which they chose to call "Renewal". A program whereby services rendered by local school districts through the student teaching experience would be repaid not only in some monetary form but also in an exchange of services. The University, during the spring of the 1972-73 academic year, made inquiries of local school districts as to what types of services they could provide to the area schools as a repayment in kind for the services that the local schools performed for the university. The districts and the University came to a quick agreement that the major type of service that could be rendered by the University was to provide in-service or continuous education types of experiences for the teachers in the schools. It was decided that the term "Renewal" would be used

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to describe this program rather than in-service because of the fact that Renewal better signifies that which is undertaken by experienced personnel.

The principle facet of the Renewal Program is that all teachers in school systems that have, or express the desire to have, student teachers or interns or pre-student teachers from the University of Wisconsin-River Falls, may enroll in a year's Renewal Program provided by the University. Rather than paying resident teachers an honorarium, the College of Education believes that it should provide a renewal service to school systems and teachers as a method to build a cooperative approach to teacher education, making it truly a joint venture of University and school districts. Each district that has student teachers or interns from River Falls will receive $30 per student. It is the University's desire that districts will use this money to enhance the Teacher Education Renewal Concept.

Teachers may, if they so desire, register in the Renewal Program for graduate credit and may earn up to a total of 6 quarter credits per year. All Renewal graduate credits are resident credits and will be accepted in the regular Master of Science in Teaching or Master of Science in Education graduate programs. Enrollments in Renewal courses took place the last week of August or the first week of September, 1973. Many of the courses were double numbered making it, therefore, possible for both the cooperating teachers and the student teacher or intern to enroll in the same course. Teachers and administrators had the opportunity of enrolling for renewal on a credit or a non-credit basis. A list of approximately 60 different types of renewal projects or programs or courses was sent prior to the enrollment to each of the districts so that the teachers could look and see if there were some listed that they should care for.

It was also stressed that any area not included in that list would certainly be one which could be tailor-made for the specific needs of an individual school district.

The time table for setting up the program was as follows:

-Meeting with administrators - April 6, 1973. Administrators from approximately 50 school districts were invited to attend these meetings held regionally throughout Western Wisconsin and Eastern Minnesota.

-Meetings with administrators, teachers and University personnel that took place in the local school districts were held between April 9th and May 30th.

-Confirmation of programs to be offered and locations for the programs were finalized during the Summer of 1973.

-The program started during the last week in August and first week in September, 1973.

Eighteen school districts in Northwestern Wisconsin and Eastern Minnesota joined in the program. For the first time, the teachers from the different school districts did not now have to drive to a university in order to pick up resident credits. Rather, the university professors and resource persons who were utilized in this program went to the districts and the instruction was carried out in the locale where the teachers worked. Eighteen school districts with faculty numbering over 2,000 persons were included in the Fall program. Over 300 of the teachers involved in the program chose to enroll in courses for credits. Most of these centers plus some new ones are involved in the program during the Winter with over 200 teachers enrolled in credit courses.

The College of Education firmly believes that its objective of providing teachers from cooperating schools with a service to repay them for their service rendered to the University has been met. Feedback from the teachers and administrators in these schools lead us to believe that the above is true. The College of Education firmly believes that this program is an example of a true partnership between the teacher preparation institution and the local school districts in which neither plays a dominant role, but in which both have the opportunity to benefit from the mutual understanding that grows from such a program. The College of Education at the University of Wisconsin-River Falls is firmly convinced that this is a program which is of great benefit and intends to continue with this program for the foreseeable future.

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-RIVER FALLS RENEWAL CENTERS

ABSTRACT/INFORMATION FORM - 1974 DAA PROGRAM

Name of Program Submitted: University of Wisconsin-River Falls Renewal Program

Institution (complete name): University of Wisconsin-River Falls

Chancellor: George R. Field

Campus Public Information Officer: JoAnn Hinz

Faculty Member Responsible for Program: Daniel H. Brown

Title of the Faculty Member: Dean, College of Education

Signature: Daniel H. Brown

Title: Dean, College of Education Date: November 23, 1973

Please describe in 150-200 words the program which you have entered in the 1974 AACTE Distinguished Achievement Awards.

The Teacher Renewal Program of the College of Education was mutually developed by the College of Education in cooperation with area school administrators and teachers. The primary objective of the Teacher Renewal Program was to provide area teachers with course work or specially designed learning activities tailored to their individual and local school district needs. The Renewal Program was initiated in the Spring of 1973 for implementation during the Fall of 1974. The ongoing Renewal Program has provided course work and learning activities to over 300 area teachers in 18 school district centers. The topics covered include Supervision of Student Teachers, School Law, Introduction to Learning Disabilities, Career Development, Cultural Awareness, Behavior Modification, Human Awareness, Social Problems and Issues in Education and specially tailored learning experiences in Reading Program Development and Design, Team Teaching, Ungraded Primary and Marking, Grading and Reporting Pupil Progress.